

STATE SENATOR . MICHAEL PRUSI . 38TH DISTRICT
Prusi Press Release

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SEN. PRUSI SPONSORS BIPARTISAN RESOLUTION CALLING ON
USDA TO ADOPT BOVINE TB SPLIT-STATE STATUS FOR MICHIGAN

LANSING – Sen. Mike Prusi (D-Ishpeming) is the primary sponsor of a bipartisan Senate Resolution calling for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to adopt a proposed regulation allowing Michigan to be designated as having split-state status in its efforts to control bovine tuberculosis.

“Through an aggressive testing plan for livestock and wildlife, Michigan is able to demonstrate to other states and the world that Bovine TB is not present throughout the entire state of Michigan,” Prusi said. “The tremendous efforts undertaken with both livestock and wildlife inspections are moving the state towards eradication of this disease.”

The USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has issued a draft rule that would allow Michigan to split the state into two distinct zones under the national bovine tuberculosis eradication effort.

One zone includes the areas primarily affected by the disease located in the Northeastern Lower Peninsula counties of Alcona, Alpena, Cheboygan, Crawford, Emmet, Montmorency, Oscoda, Otsego, and Presque Isle, and northern portions of Iosco and Ogemaw. The other zone covers the rest of the state.

The split zoning will reduce the testing and movement burdens on most Michigan livestock producers. It will also allow the state to focus its resources more directly on the area where the disease has been found. The Northeastern Lower Peninsula zone will continue to be under various ongoing rigorous testing and movement restrictions. The rest of the state will continue to be tested under a random selection protocol for six years.

Through June 6, 2003, the USDA will take public comment on Michigan’s proposed split-state status. After that date, the USDA will decide whether or not to grant that new status designation to the state.

For more information on the state’s efforts to eradicate Bovine TB, click on the following web site:

www.bovinetb.com. For a map of the split-state zones go to:

http://www.bovinetb.com/images/maps/splitstate/p_splitstatestatus.jpg?sec=6&LinkID=110

Mike Prusi serves as Democratic Vice Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee. He represents the 38th District, which includes 13 of the 15 Upper Peninsula counties.

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